



Zoom-Manga

DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.



TOKYOPOP®

Volume 1

LIFE

Keiko Suenobu

LIFE

Volume 1

Created by
Keiko Suenobu



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO



Life Vol.1
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A  **TOKYOPOP** Manga

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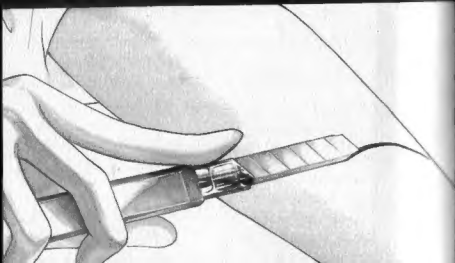
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Life



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Keiko Suenobu

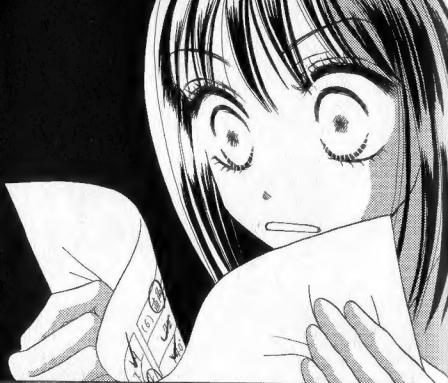


Life



1

Chapter 1: Self-Punishment



ライフ
Life







BUT
WHEN
THEY'RE
FINISHED...



IT
SUCKS!

NOOO!

...WE
WON'T BE
GOING TO
THE SAME
SCHOOL ANY
MORE.



THEY
GO TO
NISHIDATE
HIGH.

HEY,
LOOK.



I WONDER
IF THIS
TIME
NEXT
YEAR...

...I'LL BE
WEARING
THAT
OUTFIT,
TOO.

THEY'RE
REALLY
PRETTY.



THEY
MUST BE
SMART,
TOO.



I'M GOING
TO COLOR
IT TO
LOOK LIKE
THERE'S
BLOOD
UNDER MY
HOOD!

QUIT
IT!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
YOUR
FACE
LOOKS
FREAKY,
SHI-CHAN!



HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA



your
exam?

Here's hoping you pass
your exams!



IT'LL BE
DECEMBER
SOON.

YEAH,
TOO
SOON.

I JUST
WANT THESE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS TO
BE OVER
AND DONE
WITH.

YEAH.



...TO WEAR
THAT
UNIFORM.

I ALWAYS
WANTED...



AND NOW
I MAY
HAVE THE
CHANCE!



WHY?

YOU
COULD
GO TO
MINAMI!

WHAT?

YOU'RE
GOING TO
NISHIDATE?

WHY
GO TO
NISHI-
DATE?



I'VE
ALWAYS
DREAMED OF
GOING TO
NISHIDATE.



SHE
WAS SO
SWEET
AND
PRETTY.

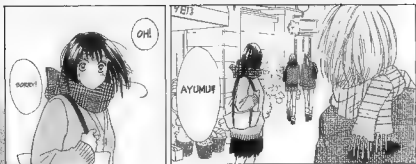
I
WANTED
TO BE
LIKE
HER.



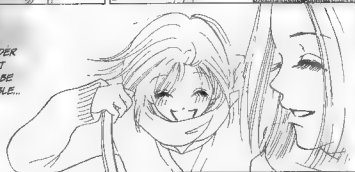
...THERE
WAS THIS
GIRL WHO
LIVED NEXT
DOOR TO
ME.

WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE...

SHE
WENT TO
NISHIDATE
HIGH
SCHOOL.



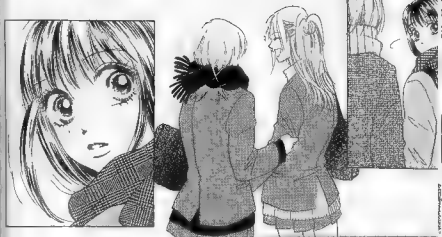
I WONDER
IF IT
WILL BE
POSSIBLE...

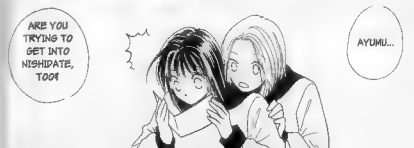
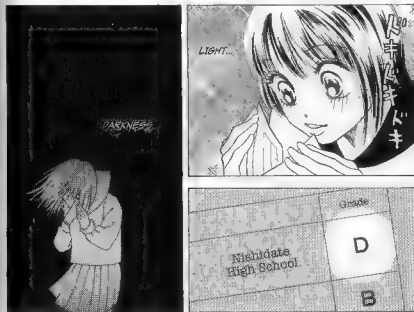


I'M GOING
WHEREVER I
WANT.



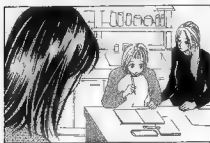
FOR ME
TO GO
TO THE
SAME
SCHOOL
AS SHI-
CHAN.



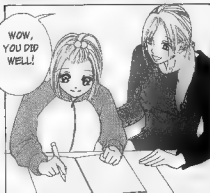


I SAID I'D
TRY TO DO
SOMETHING
THAT
SEEMED
ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE.

SHE WAS
PROBABLY
JUST
WORRIED
ABOUT ME.

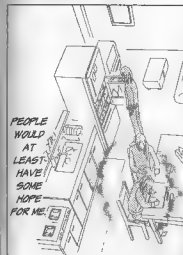
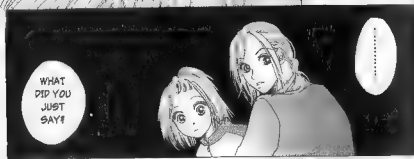
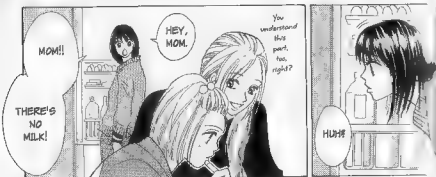


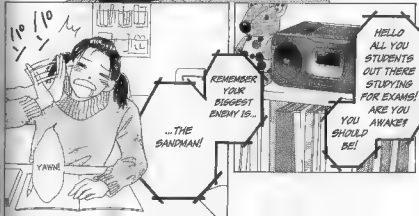
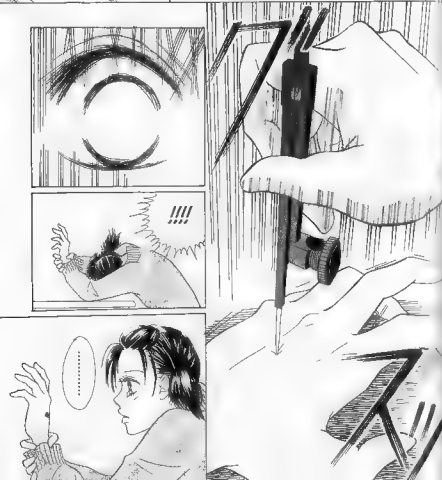
FALLING
ASLEEP AT
THE DESK
MAKES MY
SHOULDER
STIFF



WOW,
YOU DID
WELL!









HEY,
SHI-CHAN!
GUESS
WHAT?

WOW,
AYUMI!
THIS IS
REALLY
AMAZING!

Yaay!

YEP!
SURE
AM!

ARE
YOU
SERIOUS?

Only 30 people
got higher
scores?



HEY, SHI-CHAN, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

YEAH,
YEAH.



It's like
this.

Uhh huu...



SURE...

BEFORE I
REALIZED
IT, IT WAS
MORNING!

YOUR
HEAD
MUST BE
SPINNING
BY NOW!

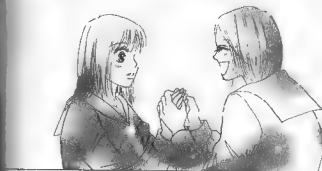
LET'S
BOTH
DO OUR
BEST!

Closing Ceremony



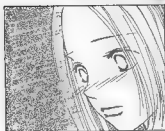
YOU
REALLY
CAN!

YOU
CAN
DO IT,
AYUMU!



LET'S
BOTH
DO OUR
BEST!





WE'LL
STUDY
HARD FOR
THE NEXT
ONE, TOO!

BUT IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
TO YOU.
DOES
IT?



YOU'RE
RIGHT



WHOA...



Ayumu

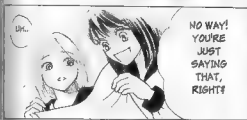
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WHAT
DID YOU
GET, SHI-
CHAN?

AL-
THAT WORK
DURING
WINTER
BREAK
PAID
OFF.

THIS
IS THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER
SCORED
ABOVE 80 ON
A MATH
TEST!



UH...

NO WAY!
YOU'RE
JUST
SAYING
THAT,
RIGHT?



82

I
GOT...

...A
LITTLE
BIT
LOWER
THAN
YOU.



SHE'S
ALWAYS
SUPPORTED
ME.

WHAT DO
I SAY TO
HER?

Ayumu

BUT I CAN'T
FIND THE
WORDS.

お
う
う

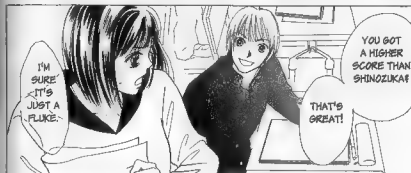
I GOT
A 02!

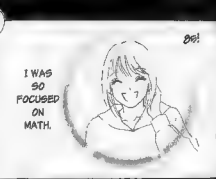
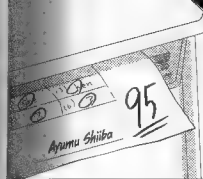
YEP!

REAL-
LY?

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
AYUMU?

I MADE
UP FOR
IT IN
ENGLISH!







ALL OF A
SUDDEN...



PLEASE
LET US
BOTH
PASS THE
EXAM.

I FEEL
LONELY
AND
HELPLESS



I KNEW
THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THOUGHT!

OH,
PLEASE!

I'M
ALWAYS
HOLDING
YOU
BACK.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I'M
SORRY



AND I'VE
ASKED
YOU FOR
HELP, TOO,
HAVEN'T I?

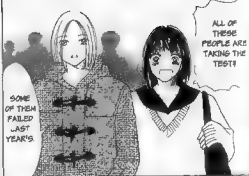
WE BOTH
SAID WE
WERE
GOING TO
STUDY
LIKE MAD IN THE
LAST STRETCH,
RIGHT?



SEE
YA!

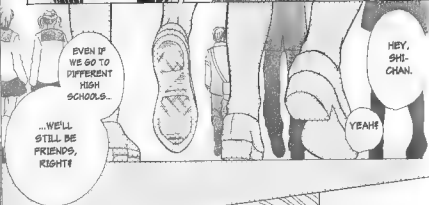


YOU
WORRY
TOO
MUCH.



SOME
OF THEM
FAILED
LAST
YEAR'S

ALL OF
THESE
PEOPLE ARE
TAKING THE
TEST!



EVEN IF
WE GO TO
DIFFERENT
HIGH
SCHOOLS...

...WE'LL
STILL BE
FRIENDS,
RIGHT!

HEY,
SHI-
CHAN.

YEAH!



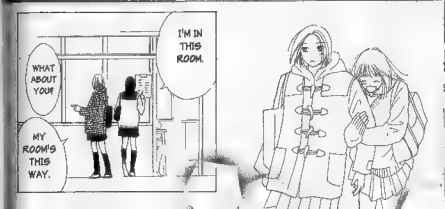
OF COURSE!
HIGH SCHOOL
WON'T
CHANGE
ANYTHING!

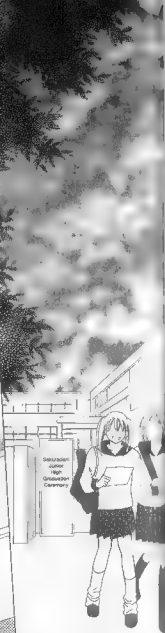
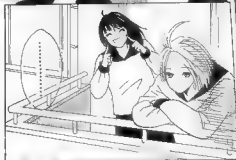


Good luck, Shi-chan!



Testing
Area







I THINK
I GOT A
250



!
 REALLY?

SMILE!!

EVERYONE
DID
BADLY

YOU
HAVE
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT

THE
TEST WAS
HARD THIS
YEAR.



I CAN'T
FORGET
ABOUT
IT!

SHI-
CHAN
...

HEY!

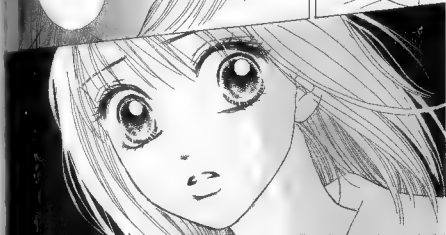
LET'S
JUST
FORGET
ALL
ABOUT
IT FOR
TODAY.



WHEN
I TRIED
FIGURING OUT
MY SCORE
ON MY OWN
AFTER THE
TEST...

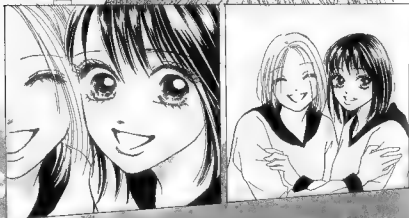
...I
BARELY
MADE
THE
CUTOFF.

I THINK
I ONLY
GOT A
240.



SMILE,
OKAY?

AYUMI...

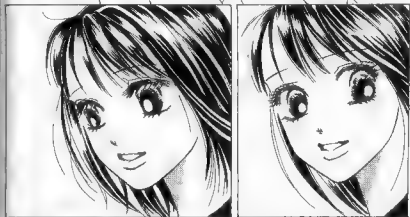


CLICK



I'M
SO
SILLY!

THANK
GOD!
THAT'S
SUCH A
RELIEF!



WITH
THE SKY
IN THE
BACK-
GROUND.

COULD
YOU TAKE
ONE WITH
JUST THE
TWO OF
US FOR
ME?

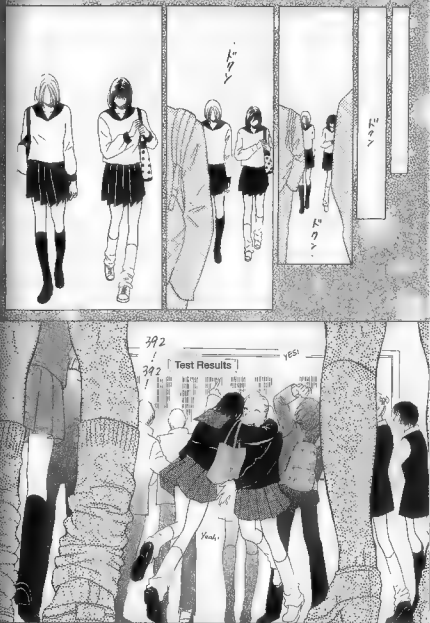
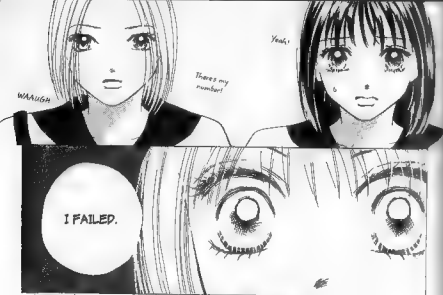
SORRY!

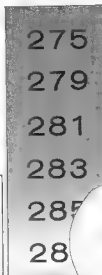
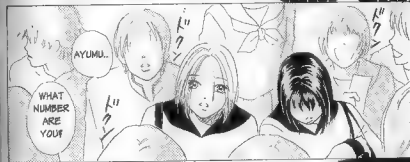
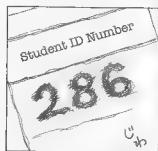
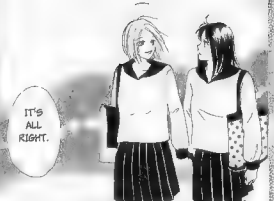
OK,
yeah!

WHAT
ARE YOU
GUYS DOING
OVER
THERE?

LET'S
TAKE A
PICTURE!





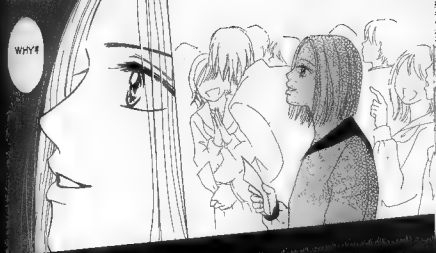




351	285
354	286
356	289
358	291
	293
	294

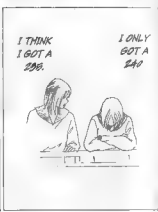
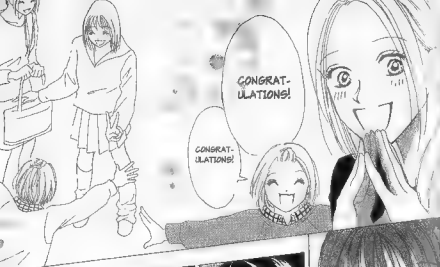
HOW?

HOW
DID I
FAIL?



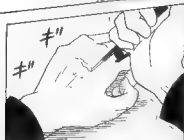


HOW DID
YOU PASS
AND NOT
ME?



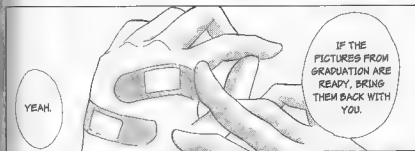
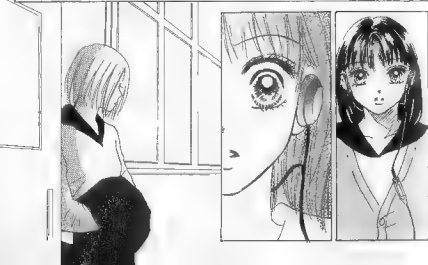
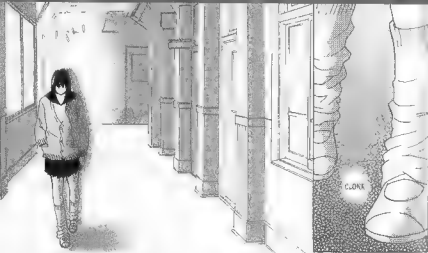
I ONLY
GOT A
240

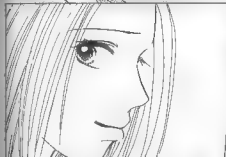
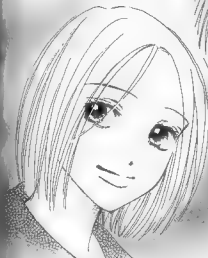
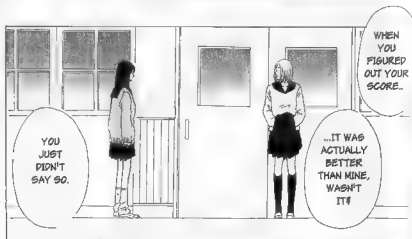


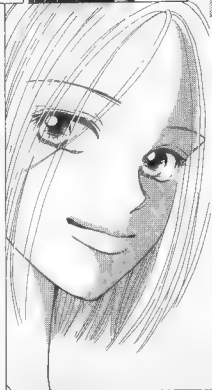
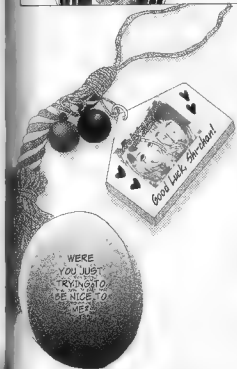
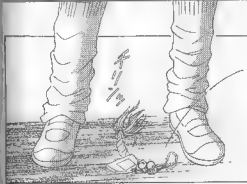
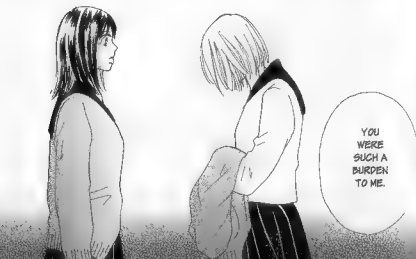


24	30	55	192	247	Total
					247











I WISH
YOU HADN'T
INSISTED
ON HANGING
AROUND!



HA
HA
HA!

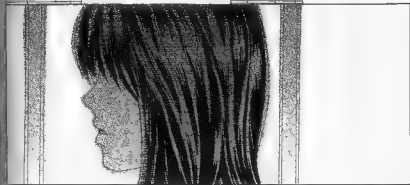
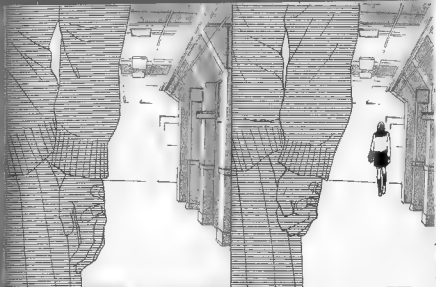
Yeah!

That's
great!



LET'S
BOTH
DO OUR
BEST!

WOW,
AYUMI!!
THIS IS
REALLY
AMAZING!



WE'RE IN
THE SAME
CLASS
AGAIN!

AYUMI!

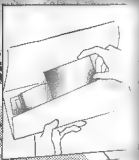
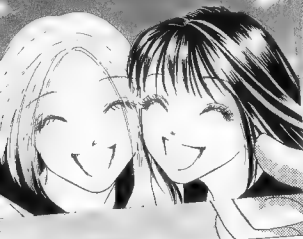
HEY,
AYUMI!

...THAN
ANYONE
ELSE.

I KNOW
YOU
WORKED
HARDER...

OF COURSE!
WE'RE
BEST
FRIENDS,
RIGHT?

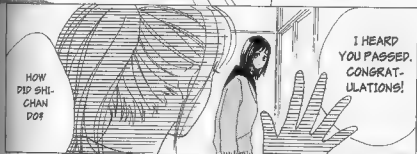


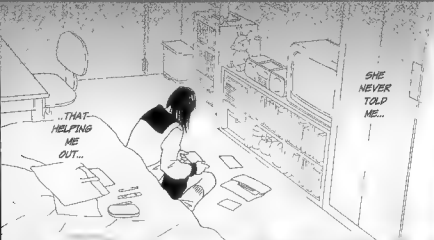


WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO
WITH
YOU...?

BUT I
UNDERSTAND
IT SO MUCH
BETTER
WHEN YOU
EXPLAIN IT
TO ME!

CAN'T
YOU
FIGURE
IT OUT
ON YOUR
OWN AT
ALL?





..THAT
HELPING
ME
OUT...

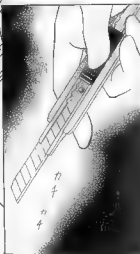
SHE
NEVER
TOLD
ME...



..HAS
MAKING
HER
GRADES
EASIER



AND I
DIDN'T
TELL
HER THE
TRUTH
ABOUT
MY
GRADES
EITHER.



THE
FACULTY
ROOM.

WHERE
DID YOU
GO?

I JUST
ASKED THE
TEACHER
ABOUT
SOMETHING
I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND.



SHIRO-
ZUKA



THE TEACHER
CALLED YOU
TO TALK
ABOUT YOUR
GRADES.
DIDN'T HE?



WOW!
YOU'RE A
GENIUS!



YOU'RE
THE BEST,
SHI-GHAN!

WHY
DIDN'T I
REALIZE?



WHY DID
YOU PASS
AND NOT
ME?



...TO
NISHIDATE
HIGH
SCHOOL.

I ALWAYS
WANTED
TO GO...



BUT IT
DOESN'T MAKE
A DIFFERENCE,
RIGHT?



LET'S
WORK HARD
ON THE
NEXT ONE,
TOO!

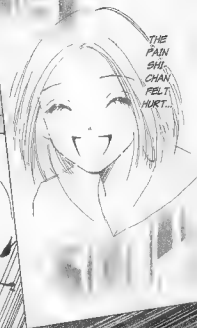
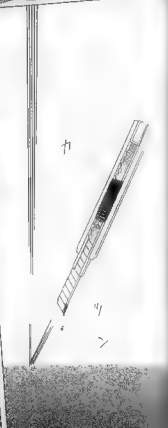


DIE!

NOT
TO ME







THE
PAIN
SHI-
CHAN
FELT
HURT...

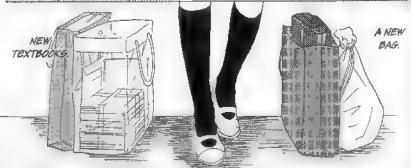
MORE!



...IT WAS
LIKE
ALL THE
MIXED-UP
THOUGHTS
IN MY
HEAD...

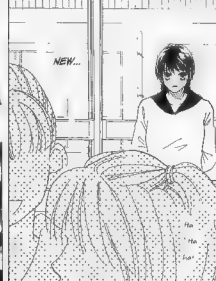
...WERE
FLOWING
OUT OF
ME.





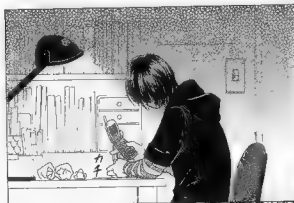


WHY
WOULD
SHE BE
HERE?



logy

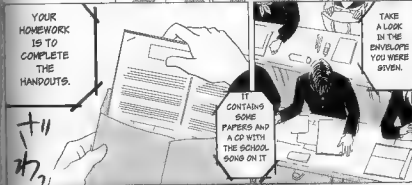
Dear Shi-chan,
It's Ayumu. I'm really
sorry, Shi-chan. Please
accept my apology.

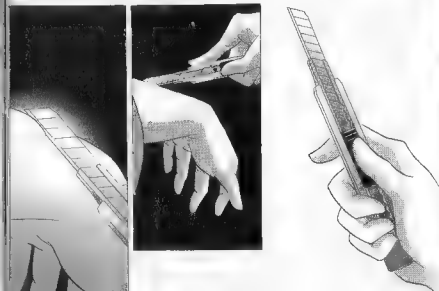
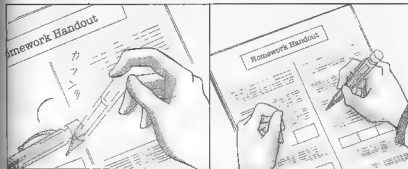


BEEP

I WISH I
HADN'T
TRIED
TO GET
INTO THIS
SCHOOL.

Freshman Orientation





THE ONLY
THING
THAT
MAKES
ME FEEL
BETTER

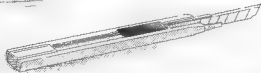
...IS
PAIN.



70
70
70



...I HAVE TO
EXPERIENCE
IT FIRSTHAND.



IF I
WANT
TO KNOW
WHAT
IT'S
LIKE
TO GET
HURT...



I WONDER
IF SOME
DAY,
EVEN!!

...WILL BE
ABLE TO
UNDERSTAND
OTHER
PEOPLE'S
PAIN.

カチ
カチ
ッ

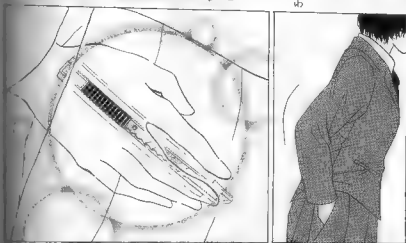
カチ

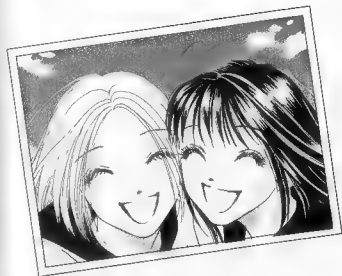
カチ

カチ



I HAVE
TO MOVE
FORWARD.





ライフ
Life



Chapter 2: Despair





THIS IS
AT THE
AMUSEMENT
PARK.



WHICH
ONE
DO YOU
WANT?



LOOK
AT THESE
PICTURES OF
ME AND MY
BOYFRIEND!

AREN'T
THEY
CUTE?



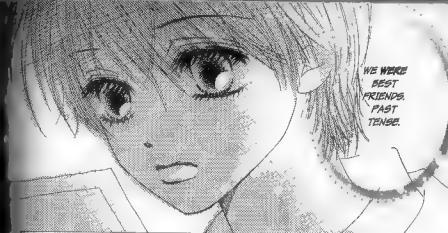
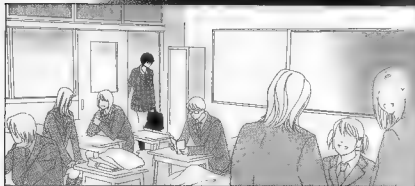
IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

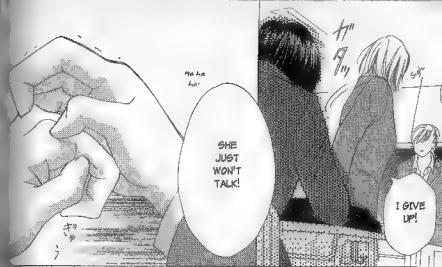
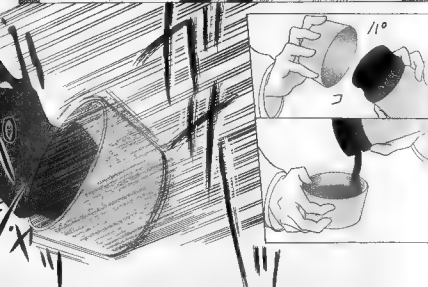
WHATEVER
YOU HAVE
LEFT.

ライフ
Life

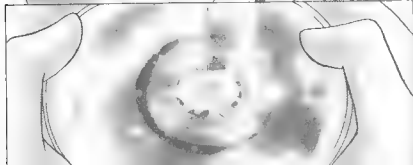
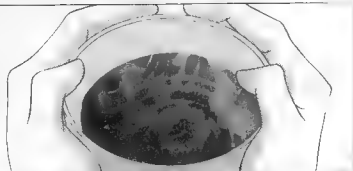








I HATE
THIS. I
WANT
TO DROP
OUT OF
SCHOOL.



THAT
WORLD...



LOOKS
SO
BRIGHT
TO ME

HEY!
WATCH
WHERE
YOU'RE
KICKING!

Sorry

.....



WHAT
WILL I
HAVE TO
ENDURE
AFTER
THIS
PICNIC

CAMP
IN
JUNE

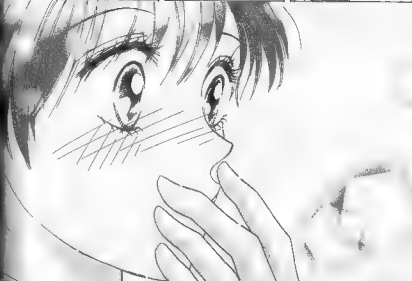
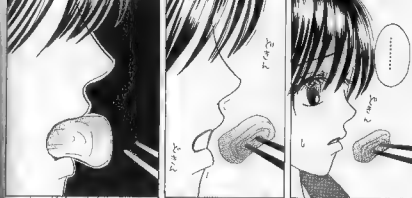


OF
SEARCHING
FOR
DESERTED
PLACES TO
ESCAPE
EVERYONE

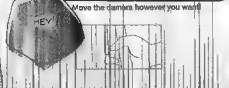
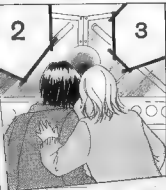
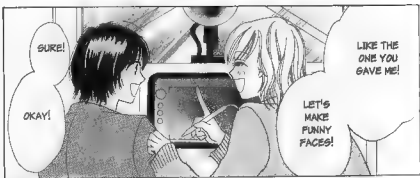


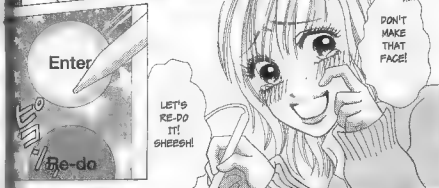




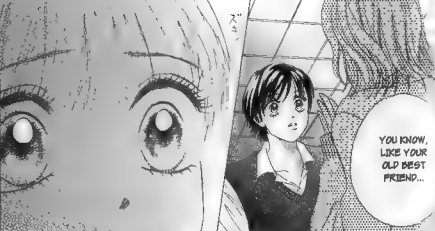




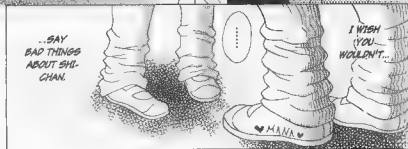








YOU KNOW,
LIKE YOUR OLD BEST
FRIEND...



...SAY
BAD THINGS
ABOUT SHI-
CHAN.

I WISH
YOU
WOULDN'T...



...THAT I
FOUND...

YOU
KNOW,
AYUMU

...I'M,
LIKE, SUPER
HAPPY...

...A FRIEND
LIKE YOU
IN HIGH
SCHOOL



I'VE
NEVER
EVEN
TALKED
TO THESE
PEOPLE
BEFORE.

I WISH
SHE
HADN'T
SHOWN
THEM TO
ANYONE.

UH,
YEAH.



AND
NOW
THIS
IS HOW
THEY'RE
GOING TO
SEE ME?

I'LL
NEVER
LIVE IT
DOWN...



I SAID
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT!

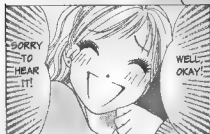
IT
WOULDN'T
BE FUNNY
IF YOU
WERE
REALLY
UGLY!

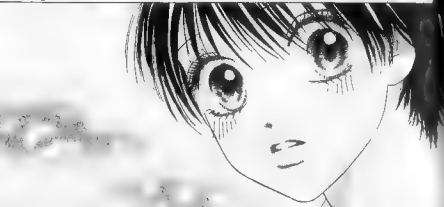
BUT I
WISH...

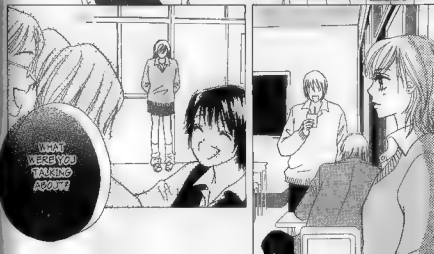
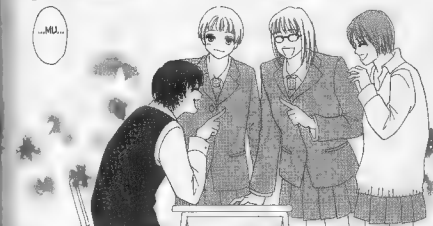
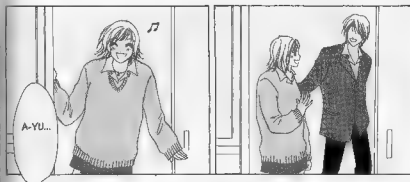
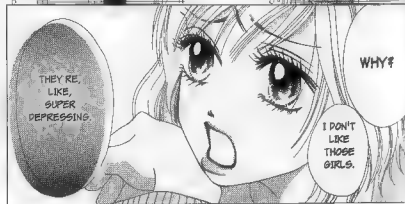
...YOU
HADN'T
GIVEN
OUT...

...SO
MANY.

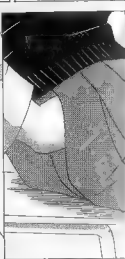
I
THINK...











ARE YOU
MAD AT
ME?

ARE..

REALLY,
I'M
SORRY.



Hey!

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT!



Hey!

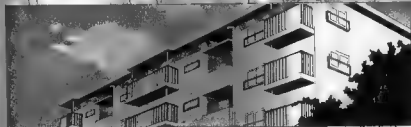
MANAMI-
CHAN

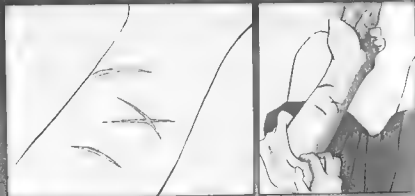
TAKE A
LOOK AT
THIS!

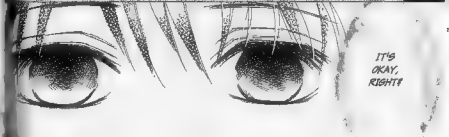
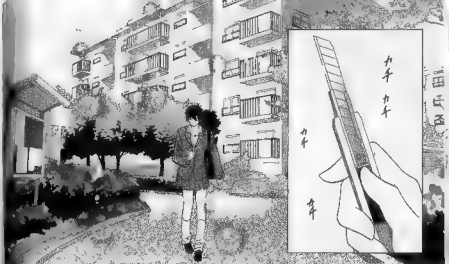


Yeah!
Doesn't it
make you
mad?

What Is
that too
shame's
my friend?









DO YOU
WANT TO
EAT WITH
US?

WHY ARE
THEY
COMING
OVER
HERE?

HAHAUGH!

HEY!



THANKS.

BUT I'VE
ALREADY
STARTED
EATING

YOU SHOULDN'T
HANG OUT WITH
THEM, AYUMI!

badump

badump

badump

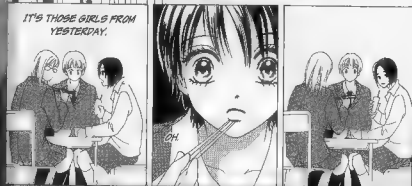
badump

badump

badump

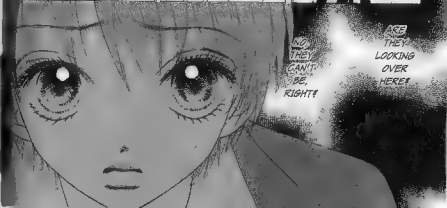


TIME
TO
EAT.

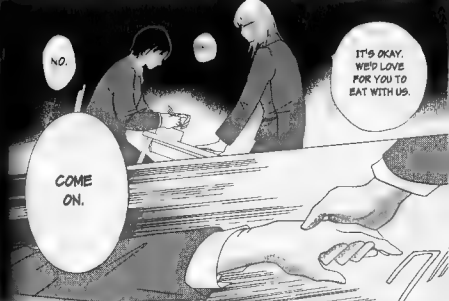
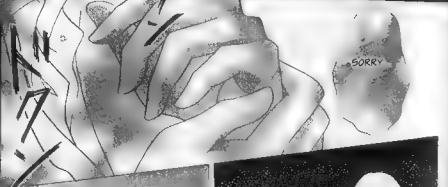


IT'S THOSE GIRLS FROM
YESTERDAY.

OH.



ARE
THEY
LOOKING
OVER
HERE?



IT'S OKAY.
WE'D LOVE
FOR YOU TO
EAT WITH US.

NO.

COME
ON.

SORRY

He ha
ha?

SHE
SAID
NO.

YOU'VE
GOT THE
WRONG
IDEA...

THEY'RE,
LIKE, SO
DEPRESSING.

I DON'T
LIKE
THOSE
GIRLS;
YOU'VE
GOT THE
WRONG
IDEA...

OH...

YEAH, I'LL BE SURE NOT TO TALK
TO THEM TOO MUCH.

WHAT A
SNOB.

SHE
SAID
SOMETHING
BAD ABOUT
US TO ANEAS
YESTERDAY

I KNEW
IT.









FOR
FOR A
LITTLE
WHILE

FEEL
LIKE A
SECRET

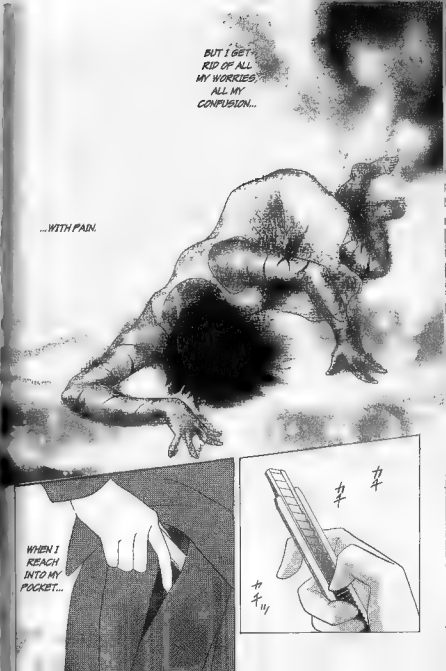


WHY
AM I SO
WEAK?



IT'S
NOT
LIKE I
WANT
TO DIE

SO
WHY
DO I DO
THIS?

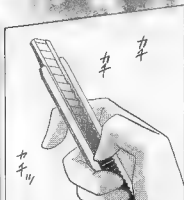


BUT I GET
RID OF ALL
MY WORRIES,
ALL MY
CONFUSION...

...WITH PAIN.



WHEN I
REACH
INTO MY
POCKET...



カ
チ

カ
チ



I CAN'T
TELL
ANYONE
ABOUT
THIS.

I CAN'T
TAKE IT!



HEAR
HER
OVER
AND
OVER
IN MY
HEAD!

I WISH YOU
HADN'T
INSISTED
ON HANGING
AROUND!



ミヤ,



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THE SIGHT
OF BLOOD
MAKES
ME FEEL
BETTER.

AM I AN
EVIL
PERSON?



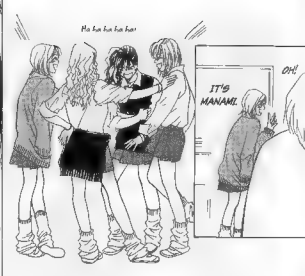
I DON'T
WANT
ANYONE
TO HATE
ME.





Chapter 3: The Promise





Ma Sun Sun Sun Sun

IT'S
MANAMI.

OH!



Is it hard?
ME

Seriously?

WHAT
SHOULD I
DO? I WANT
TO SAY
HELLO,
BUT...

COME
OVER
HERE!



Thank
 goodness.



AYUMU!
YOU
CAME!



WE'RE
BACK ON A
REGULAR
SCHOOL
SCHEDULE.

MAY.

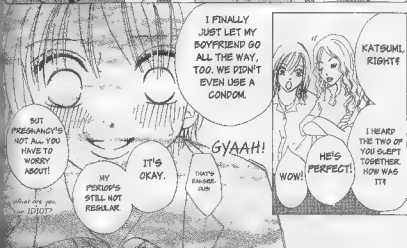
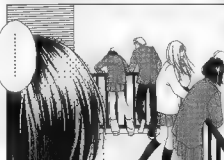
VACATION
IS OVER.



BUT I'M
NOT USED
TO THAT
KIND OF
TALK.

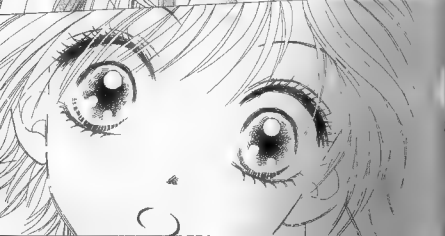
MANAMI
WILL
PROBABLY
THINK I'M
A PRUDE.

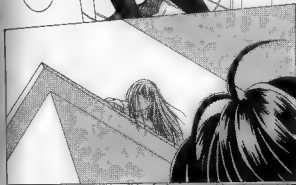
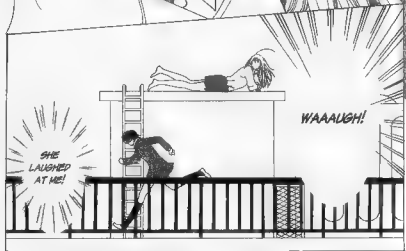
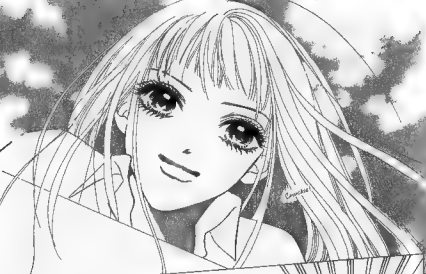
I RAN
AWAY.



I WONDER
IF THIS
IS ANY
BETTER
THAN
BEING
ALONE







と
や



I WANT
TO HAVE
SEX,
TOO.



AAAUGH!
DON'T SAY
IT OUT
LOUD!
KEEP
THIS A
SECRET!

HUUUH!!

BUT
YOU SAID
HE WAS
PERFECT...



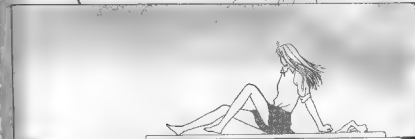
EVEN
THOUGH
WE'VE BEEN
GOING OUT
FOR SIX
MONTHS...!

I JUST
CAN'T BEAR
TO ADMIT IT
IN FRONT OF
EVERYONE!

ACTUALLY,
I HAVEN'T
DONE
IT WITH
KATSUMI
YET.



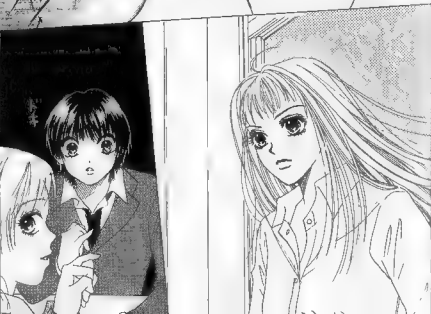
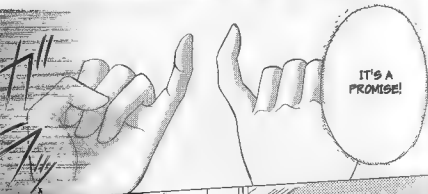
I THINK
THAT WAS
HATORI
SHE'S IN
MY CLASS.



I WISH
I COULD
BE

IS
COMFORTABLE
BEING
ALONE
AS SHE IS.





SHE'S
SO
PRETTY.

YOU
BETTER BE
CAREFUL
OF HER.

HUH?

I HEARD
SHE'S
INTO SOME
PRETTY
BAD STUFF.

HUH.

SHE
SEEMED
LIKE A
NICE
PERSON.

SHE'S
ALWAYS
WALKING
AROUND WITH
A DIFFERENT
GUY.

AND
SHE DIDN'T
SHOW UP MUCH
FOR MIDDLE
SCHOOL MUCH
EITHER.

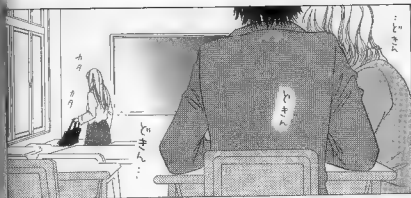
YOU'RE
A BAD
JUDGE OF
CHARACTER,
AYUMI!

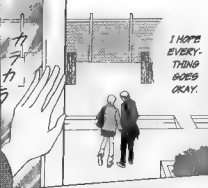
I DON'T
KNOW!

WHAT?

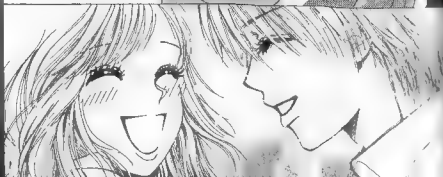
LIKE
DRUGS?

BUT I
KNOW IT'S
SOME-
THING!





I HOPE
EVERY-
THING
GOES
OKAY.



YEAH!
IT'S
KATSUMI!

SORRY!

I'M
LATE!

SHOCK



WOW, HE'S
REALLY
SWEATING

It's hot

I WONDER
IF HE CAN
BREATHE



SEE
YA!



LET'S GO
SHOPPING,
TOO!



STAY
AWAY!

KATSUMI
IS MINE!

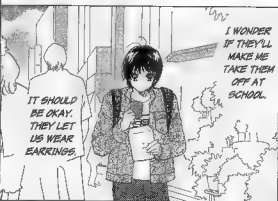
AAUGH

AYUMU,
YOU'RE
BLUSHING!

HUHF

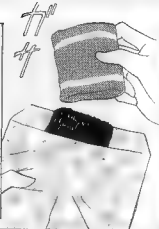
NO, I'M
NOT!





IT SHOULD
BE OKAY.
THEY LET
US WEAR
EARRINGS.

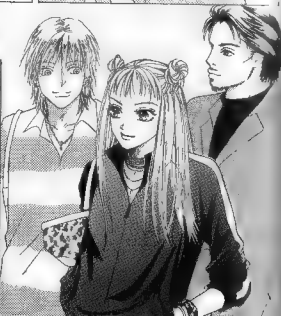
I WONDER
IF THEY'LL
MAKE ME
TAKE THEM
OFF AT
SCHOOL.



I'LL KEEP
WEARING
LONG
SLEEVES
FOR AS
LONG AS
POSSIBLE



WOOWW!

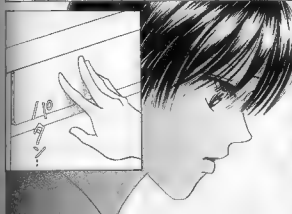
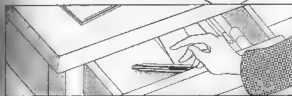


AND HE
SEES MY
SKIN.

AND
WE MAKE
OUT

EVERYONE
WILL HATE
ME.

THEY'D
THINK I WAS
A FREAK IF
THEY KNEW.

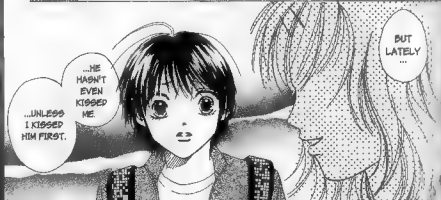
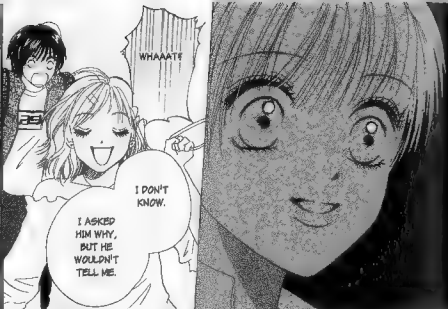


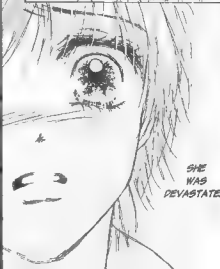
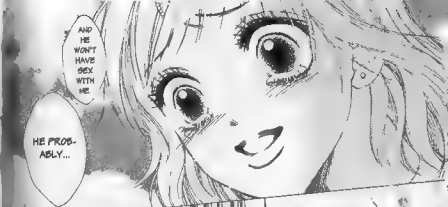
I WONDER
IF I'LL
HAVE
TO GO
THROUGH
THIS
EVERY
SUMMER

I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO GO
TO THE
BEACH
WITH MY
FRIENDS

AND IF
I GET A
BOYFRIEND

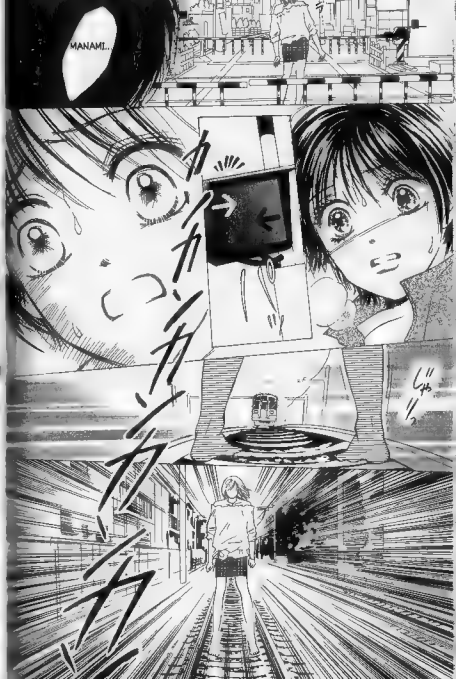


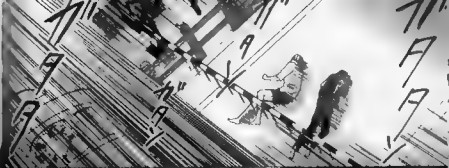












YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY
UNDERSTAND
HOW I FEEL..



WHAT DO
I HAVE
LEFT?!

I'VE
LOST MY
DREAM.

I'VE LOST
THE ONE I
LOVE.

WHAT DO
I HAVE
LEFT?!





Epilogue

LIFE portrays the experience of Ayumu, who is faced with the pressures of teenage life, and is struggling with emotions that sometimes feel too strong for her to handle. She discovers that hurting herself makes her feel better—temporarily, anyway. Ayumu's behavior is known as cutting, or more generally, self-injury, and is different from Manami's suicidal behavior. (For information on suicide prevention, visit www.dbsalliance.org/info/suicide.html or call the following toll-free suicide hotline: 1-800-273-TALK.)

Self-injury is when a person deliberately harms his or her body. The most common form is cutting (usually on the wrists, upper arms, or other areas that can be hidden), but other forms include burning, scratching, skin-picking, hair-pulling, hitting, bone-breaking, or not letting a wound heal. About 1% of North Americans self-injure, the vast majority of them being female.

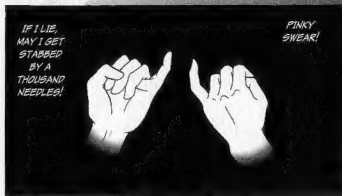
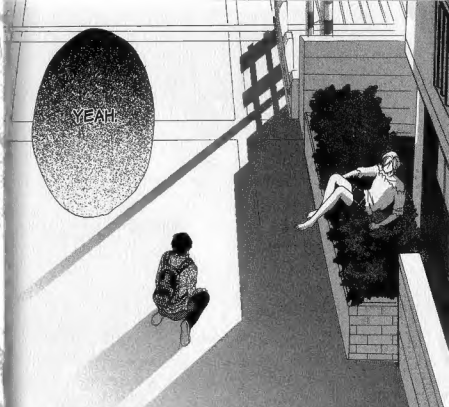
Rather than feeling intense pain when cutting, most self-injurers feel relieved and soothed by the act; it is a way of coping with emotions that feel unbearable or impossible to talk about. Some people who feel numb self-injure to feel something, which helps them feel more alive. It can also be a way of communicating to others that they need help. Self-injurers are not trying to kill themselves, nor are they crazy or weak—they simply do not know of other healthier ways to feel better.

More people are learning about self-injury—it may even seem like a fad in some circles—and some people may be tempted to try it. But self-injury is a serious problem; it can lead to infection, the need for medical attention, or even unintentional suicide. Self-injury is not an effective way of coping; it provides only temporary relief and those who self-injure often end up feeling controlled by the need to do it.

People who self-injure need our help. If you know someone who cuts, talk to her in a nonjudgmental, supportive way, since she likely feels shame about it. Let her know that she can be helped by admitting her problem to someone she trusts, like a school nurse, parent, or teacher. This trusted adult can assist her in receiving help from a mental health professional. Only then can she sort out painful feelings and learn new, healthy ways of coping.

For more information on self-injury, visit:
kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/feeling_sad/cutting.html

Susan M. Axtell, Psy.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist



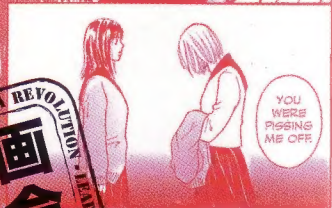
WE PROMISED

Continued in Life 2

With a postscript by licensed clinical psychologist Susan M. Axtell, Psy.D.

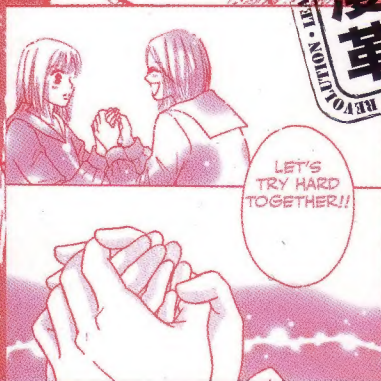
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